

John Sheppard House  
Main Street, Greenwich  
Cumberland County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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John Sheppard House\*  
Main Street, Greenwich,  
Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: (and occupant) Mrs. Henrietta C. Bonham

Date of Erection: Before 1787

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Benjamin Tyler (owner 1769) or Benjamin Reeve  
(owner 1787)

Present Condition: Original; the leanto shed being an addition,  
the front porch modern, and the wing used  
partly as a store.

Number of Stories: Two and one-half, over part cellar.

#### Materials of Construction

Foundation: Stone masonry

Exterior walls: Timber frame, clapboarded

Interior walls: Lath and plaster on frame studding

Chimneys: Brick, built into inside of gable end walls.  
Chimney of wing removed since surveyed

Roof: Gable, wood shingled; leanto shed tin roofed

#### Historical Data:

The deduction of the name of the original owner of this house and the estimation of its date of erection is based upon our survey of the structure and upon the evidence derived from a search of title in the County records.

Thus, by a deed dated 3 May 1787, Benjamin Reeve and wife Rachel, of Greenwich, Cumberland County, conveyed to Thomas Brown (a) of the same place for 25 pounds a half acre lot having

\*Mrs. Robert Ewing of Greenwich states that this house has always been known by this name, reports O.F. Benjamin, Research Editor H.A.B.S., 9 January 1940. John Sheppard purchased the property in 1808.

a frontage of  $82\frac{1}{2}$  feet on the northeast side of Main Street in the village of Greenwich, with "all and singular the houses, barns," etc., reciting grantor's title from Benjamin Tyler by deed of 20 March 1769 (unrecorded), and Tyler's from Samuel Test and James Stretch and their wives by a deed of 2 April 1762 (likewise not recorded)

Thomas Brown abovesaid purchased for \$90.00 a 125 square perches rear extension to this lot by deed of 2 July 1802 from James, Richard and George Reeve of Philadelphia and Joshua Reeve of Mt. Holly, heirs of Benjamin Reeve deceased, again reciting the deed of 20 March 1769 from Benjamin Tyler. A tract of 128.5 square perches along the northern line of the resulting tract was added by deed of 29 March 1803 from Isaac Harding and wife Rebecca, of Greenwich, in which the lines of the lot are described as (quote) Beginning at the northwest corner of Thomas Brown's other lot of land where he now lives, at the east side of the (main) street of Greenwich," the consideration money being \$106.00. The lot thus assembled was further increased by 162 square rods along its northern line by deed of 24 March 1804 from the same Isaac Harding and wife for \$100.00.

Thomas Brown the onetime owner of the house here surveyed is thus known to have purchased it in 1787 and to have been living in it in 1803. By deed of 5 August 1808 he sold the entire tract of 3 acres and  $15\frac{1}{2}$  perches to John Sheppard, likewise of Greenwich, for \$2000, describing it as (quote) All the land said Thomas Brown holds or occupied in the town of Greenwich, where he now dwells.

By 24 May 1831, William B. Ewing (b) of Greenwich had come into possession of the house and lot, on which date he conveyed it by deed to Charles Bacon Jr. of same place, for \$1400, reciting the title from Brown to Sheppard as above stated but without indicating how it came from the latter to this grantor.

(a) Thomas Brown died 13 March 1810 aged 71 years and Rebecca Brown died 19 March 1810 aged 55 years. (Inscriptions in Presbyterian Burying Ground at Greenwich, copied and publ. 1915 by Frank D. Andrews, p. 14). Thomas Brown and Rebecca Fithian were married per license dated 29 May 1780. She was a daughter of Samuel and Phebe (Seeley) Fithian. One Thomas Brown served as 1st Lieut. in Capt. Abel Parson's Co., 2nd Battalion, Cumberland County Militia in the Revolutionary War, says Craig, Cumberland Co. Genealogical Data, p. 27.

Charles Bacon the grantee above said, with wife Hannah Ann, they being "formerly of Greenwich but now of Michigan," conveyed by their deed of 6 September 1836 to Joseph Miller of Greenwich for \$600 the same 3 acre 15½ perch lot there, and Miller passed it to George J. Sheppard of same place by his deed of 13 October next, for \$800. Sheppard devised it by this will of 23 July 1870, with all his property, to his sisters Mary C., Lydia A., and Hannah M. Sheppard, of whom Lydia came into possession of this house. She as Lydia Sheppard of Greenwich devised all her estate to Dr. Ephraim Holmes (c) if living, otherwise to her sister Hannah M. Sheppard, by will of 19 December 1884, and the executors to sell the residue of her estate at public sale. Accordingly, by deed of 5 July 1919, the executors conveyed this house and lot, with other land in Greenwich, to Edward H. Flanigan and wife of same place. Flanigan passed it to John A. Olsen and wife of Philadelphia on 1st February 1921, from whom it went to Alexander Cichowski and wife, of Philadelphia, on 16 January 1924, and they in turn passed it to Henrietta C. Bonham by deed of 13 June 1938, who remains as owner and occupant at the time of our survey in 1939.

(b) Dr. William B. Ewing, d. 23 Apr. 1866 in 90th year; his wife Harriet Seeley Ewing, 13 January 1812, aged 21; per inscriptions in Presbyterian Burying Ground cited in note (a). See biographical notice of Dr. Ewing in Cushing and Sheppard, Hist. of Glouc., Salem & Cumb. Cos., 1883, p. 565.

(c) Map of village of Greenwich, p. 26 in D. J. Stewart's Combination Atlas Map of Cumberland Co. N. J., 1876, shows a building marked "Heirs of Geo. Sheppard 7" acres, the fifth building on N.E. side of Main St. above Maple St. The sixth building is marked "Dr. E. Holmes Office". The Business Directory, p. 45 of same, lists E. Holmes, physician and surgeon, settled 1817.

Reference:

Search of title by Oscar F. Benjamin, H.A.B.S.  
Research Editor, in Land and Probate records of Cumberland  
County, reported 11 January and 11 March, 1940.

Lewis D. Cook  
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer